

# Diocese of Dallas

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

May 21, 2004

Honorable Michael K. Powell  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

RE: WT Docket No. 03-66

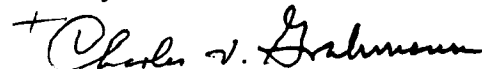
For decades, the Diocese of Dallas has used our Instructional Television Fixed Service ("ITFS") channel in the 2.5 GHz band to transmit instructional programming to students in our schools. The allocation of ITFS spectrum for educational purposes was a wise and forward-thinking move on the part of the FCC in the 1960's. The Diocese is proud to be among the pioneers in the ITFS band.

Thousands of students, parents and teachers in the nine county area heavily rely on ITFS for access to critical educational services including interactive instruction, distance education, electronic field trips, and other services. As the cost of education continues to increase, the resources we can provide to schools through our ITFS system are essential in keeping the quality of education high, and ensuring that every child has access to the resources necessary to excel.

ITFS is the only spectrum specifically allocated to formal education. I am writing to request your support in protecting this vital educational asset. As the FCC updates the technical rules for ITFS to more effectively support a range of new broadband services, **I urge you to reject proposals to allow any ITFS spectrum to be sold to commercial entities, or to reduce the total amount of spectrum allocated to ITFS.** Loss of the spectrum would be a terrible blow to education, including President Bush's "No Child Left Behind" initiative.

The possibilities for future development of educational services in the ITFS band are exciting, and we plan to use the spectrum to the fullest extent in the years ahead. I hope that you will support our efforts to keep this valuable educational resource from being licensed for commercial use. Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,



Most Rev. Charles V. Grahmann, D.D.  
Bishop of Dallas

cc: Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy  
Commissioner Michael Copps  
Commissioner Kevin Martin  
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein  
Mr. John Muleta